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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hiroshi OGAWA

Appln. No.: 09/449,625

Docket No: Q56773

Group Art Unit: 2878

Confirmation No.: 6506

Examiner: S. Lee

Filed: November 30, 1999

For: RADIATION IMAGE CONVERSION PANEL AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING RADIATION IMAGE CONVERSION PANEL

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please review and enter the following remarks:

REMARKS

During a telephonic interview initiated by the Examiner on January 22, 2004, Applicant's representative authorized amendments to claims 1 and 22-25 as set forth in the Examiner's Amendment attached to the Notice of Allowability dated February 3, 2004. Also, during the interview, pursuant to the Examiner's requirement, Applicant's representative authorized the Examiner to charge an extension of time fee (third month) extending the time to reply to the final Office Action to January 28, 2004. No further recordation of the substance of interview by the Applicant is believed to be required.

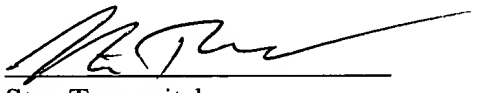
Applicant also notes that the Examiner's Amendment to claim 1 merely corrects a typographical error whereby the "wherein" clause as set forth in the Amendment filed April 2,

2003 was inadvertently omitted when claim 1 was transcribed in the December 29, 2003 Amendment. The Amendments to claims 22-25 are merely corrections of informalities, while the amendment to the claimed range of thickness in claim 24 is to ensure non-duplicative, more complete scope of coverage. No estoppel is created by these amendments.

Applicant respectfully submits that the scope of coverage is defined by the language of the claims.

For clarity of record, Applicant attaches herewith an Appendix setting forth the claims as amended by the Examiner's Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 9, 2004

APPENDIX

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (as amended by Examiner): A method of manufacturing a radiation image conversion panel in which a stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution, which contains at least a stimulable phosphor and a binder, is applied to a support by use of an extrusion coater such that the film thickness of a coated film of the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is in the range of from 300 to 800 μm,

wherein the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is applied such that a gap A (μm) between a discharge opening at the tip of the extrusion coater and the support, and the film thickness B (μm) of the coated film of the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution satisfy the following relational expression

$$0.75 \times B + 100 \leq A \leq 1.10 \times B + 130.$$

Claim 2 (canceled).

3. (original): A method of manufacturing a radiation image conversion panel according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the support and the extrusion coater is moved, and the speed of the movement is from 0.5 to 50 m/min.

Claim 4 (canceled).

5. (original): A method of manufacturing a radiation image conversion panel according to claim 1, wherein the viscosity of the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is from 1 to 10 Pa·s.

Claim 6 (canceled).

7. (original): A method of manufacturing a radiation image conversion panel according to claim 3, wherein the viscosity of the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is from 1 to 10 Pa·s.

Claims 8-19 (canceled).

20. (previously presented): A method of manufacturing a radiation image conversion plane according to claim 1, wherein a speed of movement of the support is in the range of from 0.5 to 5 m/min.

Claim 21 (canceled).

22. (as amended by Examiner): A method of manufacturing a radiation image conversion panel in which a stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution, which contains at least a stimulable phosphor and a binder, is applied to a support by use of an extrusion coater such that the film thickness of a coated film of the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is 100 μm or more,

wherein the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is applied such that a gap A (μm) between a discharge opening at the tip of the extrusion coater and the support, and the film thickness B (μm) of the coated film of the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution satisfy the following relational expression

$$0.80 \times B + 110 \leq A \leq 1.05 \times B + 130.$$

23. (as amended by Examiner): A method of manufacturing a radiation image conversion panel in which a stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution, which contains at least a stimulable phosphor and a binder, is applied to a support by use of an extrusion coater

such that the film thickness of a coated film of the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is 100 μm or more,

wherein the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is applied such that a gap A (μm) between a discharge opening at the tip of the extrusion coater and the support, and the film thickness B (μm) of the coated film of the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution satisfy the following relational expression

$$0.75 \text{ X } B + 100 \leq A \leq 1.10 \text{ X } B + 130.$$

24. (as amended by Examiner): A method of manufacturing a radiation image conversion panel in which a stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution, which contains at least a stimulable phosphor and a binder, is applied to a support by use of an extrusion coater such that the film thickness of a coated film of the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is in the range of from 300 to 800 μm,

wherein the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is applied such that a gap A (μm) between a discharge opening at the tip of the extrusion coater and the support, and the film thickness B (μm) of the coated film of the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution satisfy the following relational expression

$$0.80 \text{ X } B + 110 \leq A \leq 1.05 \text{ X } B + 130.$$

25. (currently amended): A radiation image conversion panel obtained by the method of manufacturing a radiation image conversion panel in which a stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution, which contains at least a stimulable phosphor and a binder, is applied to a

support by use of an extrusion coater such that the film thickness of a coated film of the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is in the range of from 300 to 800 μm,

wherein the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution is applied such that a gap A (μm) between a discharge opening at the tip of the extrusion coater and the support, and the film thickness B (μm) of the coated film of the stimulable phosphor-containing coating solution satisfy the following relational expression

$$0.75 \times B + 100 \leq A \leq 1.10 \times B + 130.$$

26. (previously presented): A radiation image conversion panel according to claim 25, wherein a speed of movement of the support is in the range of from 0.5 to 5m/min.